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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VII, No. 6 April 1, 1947 Price 5 Cents

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SET DEFEND LABOR MONTH

—SEE PAGE 3

FTA

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From the office of
DONALD HENDERSON

To All Officers and Members of FTA-CIO:

Our union and the entire labor movement is in danger of its very life.

Anti-labor Congressmen in Washington are ready now to start a series of union-busting bills through Congress. If these bills become law, we can say goodbye to our union and to all the wage gains made over the past 15 years.

The anti-labor drive can be stopped. Here's how:

The National CIO has set April as DEFEND LABOR MONTH. FTA will take part with all other CIO unions. Here's what to do:

1. Organize and take part in mass labor and citizens rallies.

2. Distribute CIO leaflets (see sample enclosed) at plant gates, in neighborhoods, door to door, etc.

3. Send and take part in delegations to call on mayors, governors, state legislators, other civic officials and prominent citizens, including religious and fraternal leaders to explain labor's case.

4. Send delegates to Washington, D.C., to call on Senators and Congressmen against anti-labor bills. (Arrange this through FTA Washington Representative, Elizabeth Sasuly, 1307 H St., N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

5. Organize an all-out campaign to pour letters, wires, resolutions, etc. against anti-labor bills into Congress. Address Senators: Senate Office Bldg., Representatives: House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.

Act now to save our union and our jobs!

Fraternally,

Donald Henderson

Donald Henderson,
General President, FTA-CIO

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FROM WASHINGTON

We CAN Lose, If...

By ELIZABETH SASULY

We don't have to take a licking on the anti-labor bills, but it can happen. One of the main reasons we might lose is false optimism. The way to beat the attack on labor is by a realistic understanding of what the score is and a fight to the finish.

At several union meetings recently I have asked a question to which there were some surprising answers. The question was: "How many people in this room believe that Congress is going to pass anti-labor legislation which will cripple unions and hurt the workers?" What was surprising about the answers was the number of hands that went up indicating a belief that no such legislation could be passed.

After some discussion it developed that this belief was usually based on one or more of the following assumptions: First, "the Republicans who control Congress will be afraid to put through anti-labor bills because they want to win in 1948"; second, "the will pass a 'mild' bill that will sound bad but really won't be so bad," and finally, "it just can't happen . . . "

Let's take these one by one and see how they stack up against the facts:

First: The House and Senate have passed the Gwynne bill. If this bill becomes law, it will make a useless scrap of paper out of the Wage Hour act. This bill would hurt unorganized workers who most need the protection of the Wage Hour law more than organized workers, thus show up the hypocrisy of the labor-haters' claims that their hearts bleed for the poor unorganized workers.

One of the main complaints heard in Washington from friendly senators (and there were 24 who voted against the bill, while 64 voted for it) was that there was very little mail coming in on the so-called "portal to portal" bill.

The moral of this story is that the reactionaries in control of Congress will go just as far as they can go and get away with it. If they do not hear from home on anti-labor legislation, they figure that they will not hear from the workers at the polls in 1948 and they will not worry about 1948. Only two Republicans (Aiken of Vermont and Langer of North Dakota) voted against the Gwynne bill. Wayne Morse, a Republican who used to have the reputation of being friendly to labor and who voted right on the anti-labor bills last year voted for this bill. Apparently he wasn't to worried.

Second: What are these "mild" bills we hear about? Senator Ives of New York, who represents the Dewey wing of the Republican party in Congress is trying to build up a reputation as a "fair" Republican Senator who is not out to get labor. Just as the Senate Labor Committee was winding up its hearings on the Ball-Smith-Taft and other anti-labor bills, Senator Ives introduced his own bill, S 871, titled: "To amend the National Labor Relations Act and for other purposes."

At the same time that he introduced this bill, he put in a couple of others for window dressing, one to supposedly strengthen the mediation services of the government and another to provide for a Congressional investigation of labor management relations. But let us take a look at S 871.

The first thing that strikes the eye is that not even Senator Taft has come right out and proposed openly to amend the Wagner Act. But the fair-minded Senator Ives goes right after the one piece of legislation which protects labor's right to organize.

First, he provides "free speech" for employers. To anyone who works for a living it is really news to hear that the boss doesn't have free speech. Of course employers do have the right to speak freely and use it all the time.

The Wagner Act merely provides that when an employer tries to break a union by intimidation and threats, the workers have some protection. This is what Senator Ives is trying to do away with when he talks about giving employers "free speech."

S 871 goes on to say that it is not an unfair labor practice for an employer to refuse to bargain concerning a union's demand for a closed shop. This is very clever. The closed shop is not prohibited, but unions are put in a position where they will be forced to strike if they want to get a closed shop (that is, if it has not already been outlawed by a state law).

It is a well known fact that under the Wagner Act as it is now written it is very difficult to force the employer to bargain by a refusal to bargain charge and that the Act needs strengthening on this score. Ives' bill would weaken the Act so that it would be impossible to make a "refusal to bargain" charge stick.

Then there is the real clincher. The Ives bill sets up a series of employe unfair labor practices. It says that it shall be an unfair labor practice for a union to refuse to bargain with the employer after the union has been certified by the NLRB. This sounds plain crazy when you consider that workers organize into unions so that they can bargain collectively.

But Senator Ives is, as the saying goes, crazy like a fox. What this section of the bill really means is that after a union has tried and tried to bargain and is finally forced to strike because the boss has refused to bargain, the boss can turn around and charge the union with committing an unfair labor practice, get this enforced in the courts and break the strike. Or, even if the union doesn't strike, but merely files a charge of refusal to bargain, the employer can file countercharges against the union, and tie everything up in the courts while the workers are left without a contract.

So, if anyone is hoping that we will get by with a "mild" bill, here is one to give you an idea of what we would be in for if one of them passed.

THEY ADMIT IT

It isn't always that the boss will admit he hates unions so bad that he'd even prefer a depression if it gave him a chance to bust them up, but sometimes they do.

Take this from the "U. S. Tobacco Journal" which speaks for the bosses in that industry. The writer is talking about a sharp falling-off in recent tobacco sales, which indicates that "the boom is over and business has declined to a more normal level."

Says the editorial: "This situation may actually be a blessing in disguise. It will certainly ease the tension of the manufacturers, and if the latter continue to accumulate stock and find it advantageous to close down their plants for one, two or more days a week, it may prove beneficial from their standpoint.

"In so doing, employes will certainly come to the conclusion that the hectic boom days are over, and this in turn may be instrumental in curbing workers' unreasonable wage demands."

There, in a nutshell, you have the bosses' program for America. First a boom, then a bust—and then, smash the unions.

Tell Congress

Bills To Wreck Wage Hour Act

Both House and Senate have passed HR 2517, which under the mask of outlawing "portal" suits, completely guts the Fair Labor Standards Act. Bill allows bosses to rewrite the act to suit their own interpretations, makes collection of back pay owed to workers illegal. This is the first big anti-labor measure Congress has passed.

ACTION: Pour in wires to President Harry S. Truman, White House, Washington, D. C. urging him to veto HR 2517 and reminding him of his pledge to defend gains of New Deal days.

Anti-Labor Bills, Senate

Hearings completed on bills to outlaw checkoff, union security, deny right to strike and to repeal Wagner Act. Other bills by Ives (R., N. Y.), Ferguson (R., Mich.), Smith (R., N. J.) set up labor courts, allow boss to refuse to bargain, also wreck Wagner Act.

ACTION: Wire your two Senators to vote against all pending measures "regulating" labor.

House

Rep. Hartley (R., N. J.) has announced his main bill, similar to Case bill vetoed and defeated last year. Rep. Howard Smith (D., Va.), Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) have bills in to define [illegible] processing workers as "agricultural" labor and deny protection of Wagner act, outlaw strikes.

House action expected soon in barrage of red-baiting attacks on all labor.

ACTION: Tell your Representative (House Office Bldg., Washington 25, D. C.), hands off labor, vote against all union-busting bills.

Minorities

Rep. J. Parnell Thomas (R., N.J.), chairman of the un-American Committee, and others have bills in to outlaw Communist party, as proposed by Labor Secretary Schwellenbach. If passed, this will be only first of a series of laws denying free speech, etc. to other minorities. Hitler began in Germany by outlawing political parties, moved on to abolish unions, make war on entire world.

ACTION: Write your Representative to vote against. Tell him: DON'T LET IT HAPPEN HERE.

Appropriations

The Elliott rider is up again this week in Congress, denying use of NLRB funds in cases involving thousands of fruit, vegetable and other food processing workers.

ACTION: Tell Senators to vote against all riders to Federal Labor Security Appropriation bills.

Housing

At long last Sen. R. A. Taft (R., O.) has put in the housing bill he sponsored (S 866). Bill provides 1,000,000 housing units a year, only 100,000 of them low cost. Long hearings last year make further delay now inexcusable. Sen. Glenn Taylor (D., Idaho) has better bill providing more low cost units.

ACTION: Tell your two Senators you want action on housing NOW.

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

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Vol. VII April 1, 1947 No. 6

DEFEND YOUR UNION AND YOUR JOB!

Meeting in the center of the greatest employer drive ever launched against unions, the Executive Board of the national CIO has declared April to be "Defend Labor Month," during which all union members are called on to mobilize against attacks now coming to a head in Congress.

With President Henderson in attendance for FTA, the CIO Board said in a unanimously passed resolution:

"The American economy has reached a point of grave danger. Prices of consumers' goods are rising steadily, the purchasing power of all the workers is declining, and many sections of our population are revolting against the intolerable economic burden under which they suffer.

"To meet this situation the unions are attempting to raise the living standards of their members by negotiating for wage increases, and have repeatedly called on Congress to enact legislation to help raise the living standards of all the people.

"The Congress of the U.S., however, is focusing its attention on the passage of anti-labor legislation which would weaken these efforts on the part of organized labor and has embarked on a widespread drive against the basic civil liberties and general welfare of the American people."

Then, after listing some of the attacks that have already been made, such as the dumping of the Wage Hour law (see story below), the plot to end rent controls, the rich man's tax bill (see page 7), and the total failure to end polltax, lynching, job bias and other discrimination, the resolution adds:

"Because the destruction of the rights of labor is the first objective of this reactionary drive in Congress, we have designated the month of April as Defend Labor Month and have called on all CIO members, friends and allies throughout the country to make this month a rallying point for all progressive forces in the nation.

"We urge Congress to reconsider the course it is taking, to look to the needs of the people—for better housing, health and education; higher minimum wages; more protection of civil liberties—and to fulfill these needs."

Meantime, the reactionary Republican—polltax Democratic alliance in Congress, which acts for the Natl. Association of Manufacturers and other boss organizations, shows signs of picking up still greater speed in the union-smashing drive.

Hearings have ended in both the Senate and House Labor Committees. According to the NAM's own admission, Congress has heard three times as many anti-union witnesses as it has heard labor people. According to "NAM News" for March 22, the House Committee alone has heard 89 on the bosses' side and only 32 on labor's side.

Now, the NAM boasts, its Congress is ready to do a job—on labor.

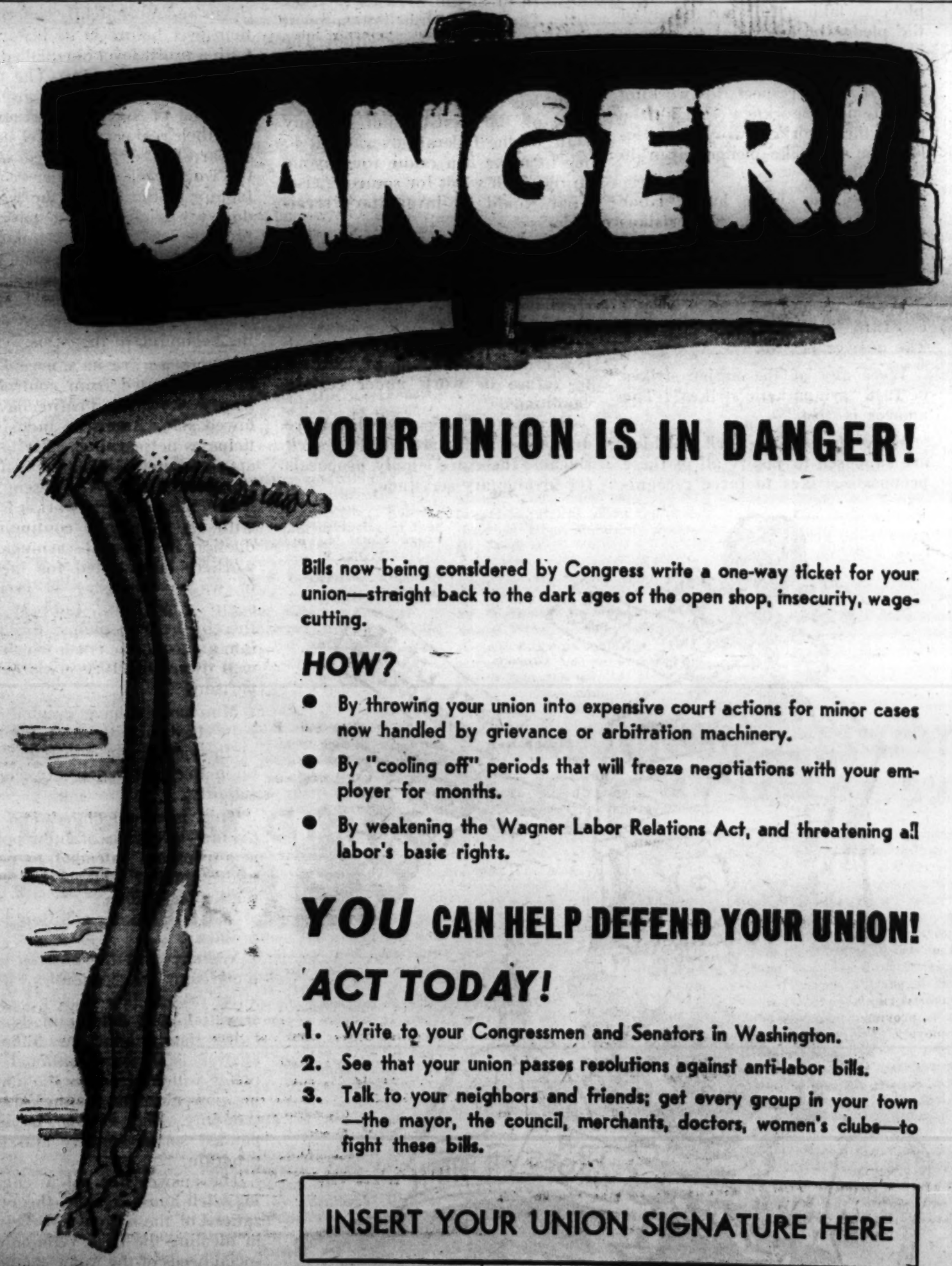
FTA, as usual, is a special target for the tories, who fear FTA's success in organizing scores of thousands of bitterly exploited food, tobacco and agricultural workers. Many of the anti-union bills have special clauses denying legal protection to food and other processing workers. Some, such as Sen. Ball's S 55, would make even organization of such workers a crime.

President Henderson's letter on page one and the sample leaflet in the next columns list the minimum steps in the campaign to stop the anti-labor steamroller.

THE REST IS UP TO US.

OUR UNION, OUR WAGES, OUR JOBS ARE IN DANGER!

WORKERS, THEIR FRIENDS AND ALLIES AMONG FAIR-MINDED PEOPLE EVERYWHERE MUST RALLY TO THEIR DEFENSE!



YOUR UNION IS IN DANGER!

Bills now being considered by Congress write a one-way ticket for your union—straight back to the dark ages of the open shop, insecurity, wage-cutting.

HOW?

- **By throwing your union into expensive court actions for minor cases now handled by grievance or arbitration machinery.**
- **By "cooling off" periods that will freeze negotiations with your employer for months.**
- **By weakening the Wagner Labor Relations Act, and threatening all labor's basic rights.**

YOU CAN HELP DEFEND YOUR UNION!

ACT TODAY!

1. Write to your Congressmen and Senators in Washington.
2. See that your union passes resolutions against anti-labor bills.
3. Talk to your neighbors and friends; get every group in your town—the mayor, the council, merchants, doctors, women's clubs—to fight these bills.

INSERT YOUR UNION SIGNATURE HERE

DEMAND VETO OF PAY BILL

An urgent plea to President Truman for a veto of the anti-Wage Hour Act just passed in both House and Senate was wired by Pres. Henderson the day the Senate jammed the bill through.

"This bill," Henderson wired, "under the mask of outlawing portal-to-portal suits, completely guts the Wage Hour act—thus wrecking one of the main keystones of the past 15 years' progress.

"Workers in industries under the jurisdiction of our union will be particularly victimized if this bill finally becomes law, since their wages are already substandard.

"The measure, passed by the Republicans with the connivance of reactionary Democrats will return the nation to the days of 20c an hour wages and will help hasten the economic crash all Americans fear."

The bill, which went through both houses of Congress on the wave of anti-portal pay hysteria, is the first open test of President Truman on the issue of preserving basic New Deal legislation.

With this new measure, the dime-an-hour bloc from the polltax states — and their northern industrialist masters — hope to get back to the days when workers competed in accepting starvation wages in order to get any kind of job.

Send your wire to President Harry S. Truman, the White House, Washington, D. C., urging him to veto HR 2517, the dime an hour bill.

Your local can use this dramatic warning as a newspaper ad or as a leaflet for distribution to your membership. Mats are available immediately from The CIO NEWS, 718 Jackson Pl. N. W., Washington 6, D. C. They cost only $1 each. Take the mat to your local printer. Ask him to make a cast from it and set your local's name and address in type at the bottom of the cast.

—AND THEY DO MEAN YOU

This is the final installment of the CIO pamphlet "The Drive Against Labor," which tells the story of the bosses' plans now shaping up in Congress. Read it, pass it around, order copies from CIO Publicity Dept., Washington 6, D.C. (10c each, 100 for $7.50).

The pamphlet was prepared under the direction of Lee Pressman, general counsel, CIO.

"Stop Coercive Picketing"

Exactly what is it that those who urge laws on "coercive picketing" want to prohibit?

Do they want to prohibit peaceful picketing? Do they want to prohibit workers from conducting parades with banners in front of the establishments under strike?

As a matter of fact, of course, the right of peaceful picketing is protected by the Constitution of the United States and no law contemplating prohibition of peaceful picketing could withstand the test of the courts.

What then is the true objective of those who urge these laws to restrict picketing?

They Favor Injunctions

Many, if not all, of these proposals suggest that the kind of picketing which they are seeking to attack should be removed from any operation of the Norris-LaGuardia Act. In other words, this slogan is used, in effect, as a cover-up for a suggestion that the Norris-LaGuardia Act be repealed.

What would it mean to repeal the Norris-LaGuardia Act?

For thirty years before the Norris LaGuardia Act was passed, the use of the labor injunction in the federal courts as a device for breaking strikes had become a notorious scandal in our national history. Congress therefore passed a law in 1932 which in effect declared (1) that **peaceful** picketing and other **peaceful strike action** was no longer to be the subject of any labor injunction in the Federal courts, and (2) if injunctions were issued in labor disputes as a means of curbing any proven **unlawful** or **violent** conduct, then there must at least be certain principles of fairness in procedure.

This is what the Norris-LaGuardia Act was intended to terminate. This is what most of these proposals would now attempt to revive.

Sometimes these proposals for curbs on picketing are not satisfied with a revival of the injunction, but provide for vindictive criminal penalties.

It is clear that these proposals are based fundamentally on a principle of discrimination against those who participate in picketing.

Special Penalities

Labor unions do not urge or condone any violence or unlawful conduct on picket lines. Every responsible labor organization makes every effort to prevent any outbreak which might arise as a result of the increased tensions of a strike situation. But that is not satisfactory, apparently, to those who wish to utilize every possible device to crush labor organizations.

These peole wish to punish far more severely certain minor conduct of an offensive nature—which may occur on a picket line just as it may occur anywhere else. They wish to create a reign of legal terror over the pickets in the course of a strike, and they wish to revive the institution of the labor injunction as a device for attacking the entire union and all of its membership. They wish to do so on the thin justification which may arise from a single minor incident in the course of the activities of workers on the picket line.

It is this discriminatory effort of those who urge these proposals which exposes, in full their true intent and purpose.

They Demand

The year 1946 brought a large number of strikes. This was not at all unexpected.

Workers throughout the war period had been subjected to a constantly rising cost of living while their wages had been held under sharp control. In addition, during the war years, there had been an accumulation of grievances of major and minor proportions throughout the entire nation. Employers, taking full advantage of the pledge of labor not to engage in strikes, had gone ahead on their own program of doing as they pleased with respect to working conditions. They knew that, in the main, their workers would not violate the no-strike pledge given to the nation.

Those who have hated labor unions have seen in these strikes an opportunity once and for all to do a crippling job upon the labor movement.

Were any of the major strikes of 1946 "jurisdictional strikes"? The answer is "No."

Were any of the major strikes of 1946 "sympathetic strikes"? The answer is "No."

Were any of these strikes which are supposed to justify all of these proposals strikes to force recognition of an uncertified union? The answer is "No."

Were any of these strikes called in order to enforce featherbedding? The answer is "No."

We could go on down the list of strikes on which the NAM and others call for prohibitions and ask whether any of them were of the types which the NAM would outlaw the answer would be "No."

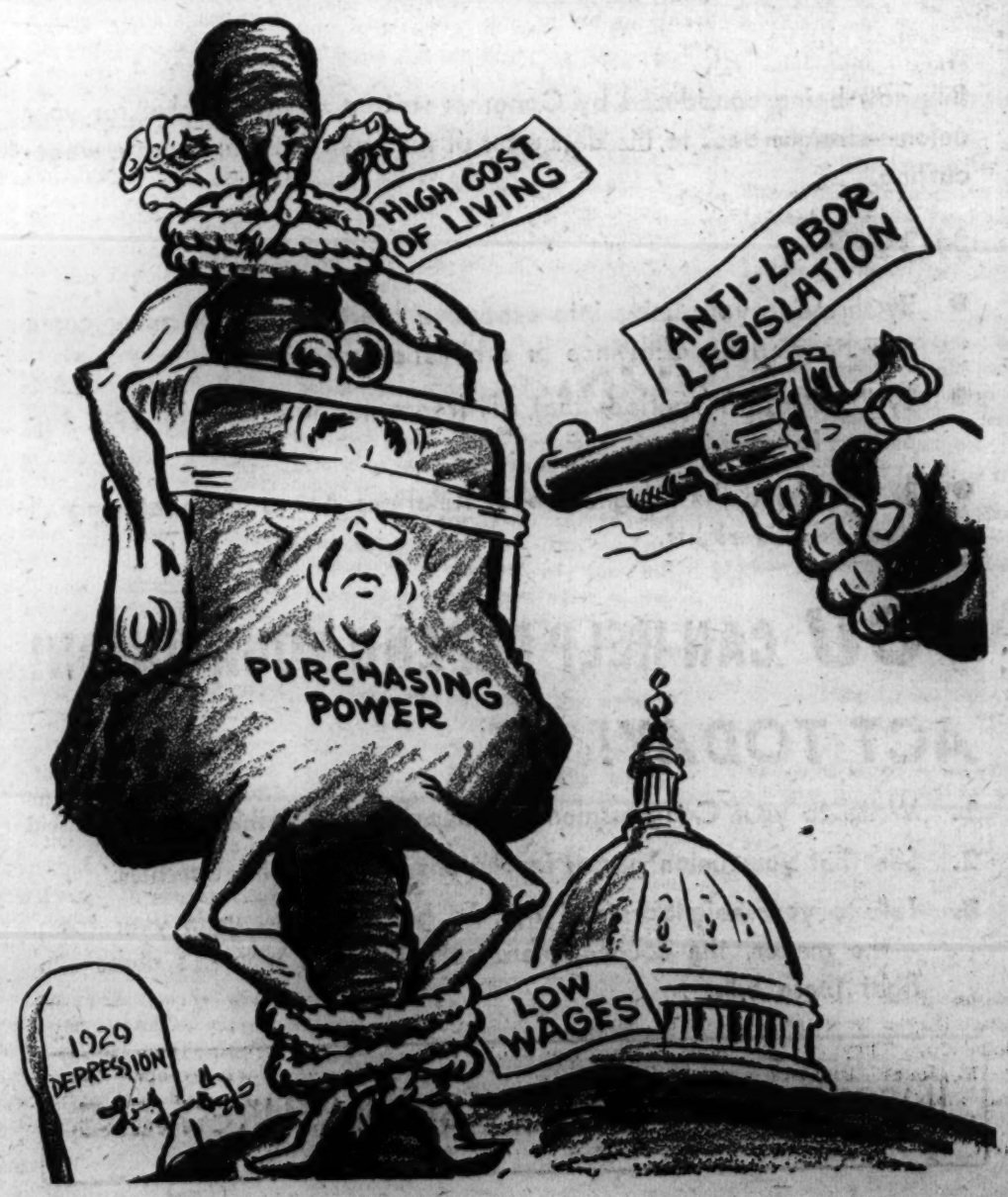
What this all adds up to is very clear. The strikes of 1946 are being used as a smokescreen for attacking all of the various kinds of strikes which the NAM and its friends and members have been trying for years to outlaw.

This country has always recognized the basic right of our people to work or not to work as they see fit. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished involuntary servitude. The United States Supreme Court in interpreting the Thirteenth Amendment has declared that it is a violation of the Constitution for any state or the federal government to try to make it a crime for anyone to refuse to work for someone else. That would be involuntary servitude.

When the NAM calls for a law prohibiting jurisdictional strikes, sympathy strikes or the so-called secondary boycott, what is it that they are requesting?

They are asking for laws to make it a crime for a group of workers to refuse to work under certain conditions.

No matter how such laws are dressed up and surrounded by slick slogans, these are simply proposals for involuntary servitude.



One device has become a favorite of those groups which fight most actively for the program of fraud and deception outlined in the earlier pages of this analysis. It is a trick which is so effective that it has unfortunately "taken in" many honest and objective citizens.

Having gone through one after another of these slogans of misrepresentation and slander; having leveled all of the baseless charges discussed in these pages; having found these charges answered at every turn by reasoned exposure, the sponsors of this campaign then turn to labor and say "What is your proposal?"

When they ask this question, they usually mean: "What is your proposal for anti-labor legislation?"

The simple fact is that this country is fast approaching a state of crisis. What is the nature of this impending crisis?

Its proportions and implications can be gathered from what happened in the first few months of 1946. Industry emerged from the war richer and more tightly concentrated than ever before in its history, and with a profit level unequalled in the history of our nation. The people, on the other hand, found in victory a period of such high living costs that their real earning level suffered a sharp blow from the reduction of the work-week and other economic factors at the end of the war. Industry was clearly in a position to preserve the living standards of those people and still earn profits at a more than reasonable level.

Greed overcame reason, and industry said "no." It thereby created the beginning of the crisis.

Today we are in a period when prices, released from control have leaped skyward. Profits have followed suit. American industry anticipates net earnings after taxes of approximately 15 billion dollars in the year 1947. At present wage levels, the American worker is faced with an actual and continuing reduction in his real earnings. The workers have asked for increases in wages. Industry is preparing again to say "no." Industry would thereby help to plunge this nation into an economic crash which could well dwarf the 1929 crisis by comparison.

Monopolists have created crisis. Now they point the accusing finger at the one group which has stood up in an effort to preserve economic stability.

This is a calculated and well-planned program of monopoly. It is a program intended to prevent understanding of the crisis and of the best solutions.

What is labor's solution to this problem?

We say that the answer lies in the realm of economics, not of vituperation. The answer is a preservation and development of the living standards of the nation. The answer is a sound national wage policy which preserves the purchasing power needed for the American economy. The answer is an expanded social security and health program.

The answer lies not in engaging in witch-hunts against the organizations of the nation's workers, but in meeting the basic economic and social needs of the American people.

Organizing, PAC Aims Of Northwest Council

Organizing the unorganized, education of members, and political action to defend labor against the attacks in Congress and state legislatures, highlighted the second meeting of the FTA Northwest Regional Council in Seattle March 8 and 9.

Following reports on the recent FTA national convention from Regional Director Wendell Phillips and Local 7 President Prudencio Mori, the delegates discussed contract negotiations.

Florence Palmer, secretary of Local 7-2, opened the eyes of the delegates when she told that the employers' counter-proposal was a 10-hour day for men, a nine-hour day for women, and elimination of the 40-hour week. Local 7-2 is asking a 23c an hour increase.

Mori reported that Local 7's demands included elimination of Class "B" and moving all workers up to class "A". They are asking a minimum wage of $250 per month and establishment of a health and welfare fund based on the extent of the salmon pack and paid for by the salmon canning industry.

Describing Local 145's recent election victory over the AFL Teamsters at the Libby plant in Portland, Local Organizer Ken Smith pointed out that this victory sets the pace for Oregon cannery workers. He said that the union is asking for a 30c an hour wage increase and a new plan for bringing wages of skilled workers in the industry into line with wages in other industries.

The food industry in Oregon was urged as a concentration point for organization by the council.

On education, the locals decided to send at least one member each to the FTA West Coast leadership training school early in April. A weekend school for FTA leaders in Oregon was set for April 12 to 13 in Portland.

Delegates discussed at length ways and means of fighting anti-labor legislation. FTA members reported on the march of 2,000 organized workers to the Oregon state capitol where hearings were held on five anti-labor bills.

The Council heard a report from Local 7 condemning the Bell Trade Act between the U.S. and the Philippine Islands. The Act was exposed as a weapon in the hands of U.S. big business to exploit and take advantage of Philippine resources.

E. R. Van Cleve of Local 145 was elected Northwest Regional Council delegate to the Portland Industrial Union Council.

Delegates to the Northwest Council meeting take time out during the busy two-day sessions to pose for the photographer. In front: Prudencio Mori, president, Albert Cruz, and Julius Ruiz of Local 7; Ivan Jacobsen, Local 7-2 organizer; F. V. Patterson, Director Wendell Phillips, Organizer Bob Forrest. At the back: V. A. Velasco, Local 7; Lillian Johnson, Margery Daw, Earl Boyer, and Local Organizer Kenny Smith, Local 145; Charles Davis and Local Organizer Clarice Dibble, of Local 270. Standing is E. R. Van Cleve, Local 145. (See story next column)

ARIZONA FTA FIGHTS ANTI-UNION LAWS

The Arizona House of Representatives has passed four vicious anti-labor bills which had previously been introduced and passed in the State Senate. The bills outlaw the closed shop, union shop and maintenance of membership, collective bargaining agreements, prohibit the secondary boycott, make mandatory a cooling off period, revive the use of injunctions in labor disputes and make unions suable.

Although the bills encountered little opposition in the Senate they were so vigorously fought by a small minority in the House that an all night battle on the last day of the 60-day session resulted when the majority bloc forced the bills out of the Committee of the whole House. It was necessary to extend the session to jam the bills through.

The small group of legislators, spearheaded and led by Representatives Wes Timmerman, Sidney Kartus and Frank Robles were confronted by every sort of parlimentary subterfuge to stifle debate and discussion in order to steamroller the bills through. Said Wes Timmerman, Railroad Brotherhood member and chairman of the Labor Committee, whose committee was denied the right to act on the bills: "This is nothing but an outright rape of the Arizona labor movement."

Labor was well represented at both the Senate and House hearings on the bills. Speakers for the CIO were Orville Larson, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; George Burrell, FTA-CIO Local 78; Charles Law, FTA 78; John Dutch, secretary of the Arizona State Legislative Council; C. Morrell, Mine, Mill Local 586, and others. Majority of the CIO members in the State of Arizona attended sessions on the bills till as late as four a.m.

A committee consisting of Ann Tinnen, secretary-treasurer, Local 78, Salt River Valley; Robert Keyes, Int. Representative of the United Steelworkers and John Dutch, secretary-treasurer, Arizona State Legislative Council, called on the governor to ask him to veto the bills.

The governor said he would not veto the anti-closed shop, anti-union shop act because that was passed by the people in the form of the so-called "Right to Work Amendment" at the last election. He said he would veto the bill outlawing the secondary boycott, but he wasn't sure what he would do about the others.

'CONTINUOUS SESSION' IN CAMPBELL TALKS

A definite break in the negotiations between FTA Locals 80 and 194 and the Campbell Soup Co. was announced as FTA News went to press, with an agreement by the company and the locals to stay in "continuous session" until the contract is completed. Peter J. Manno of the U. S. Conciliation Service made the proposal which was accepted by both.

Negotiations have been going on for several weeks, with the company up until now refusing to yield on the main contract points. These include 1) a master contract for all Campbell plants; 2) the union shop and 3) bargaining by the union and company on labor standards, incentive pay, etc.

Company proposals originally made on the union shop issue were described by union leaders as "designed to break up the unions." They included a demand for surrender of seniority rights, unchallenged company right of firing and the like.

On incentive pay, the company first proposed that it have the right to knock any worker down to the next lowest rate if it considered the worker's output "unsatisfactory." Such a plan would have put the rap for broken machines, delays in receiving material, etc., squarely on the worker, regardless of whether or not the delay was the company's fault.

Local 80 President Herbert Kling, Organizer Tony Valentine, Chief Steward Benjamin Butler and Local 194 President John Gallecher and Organizer Paul Gardner have been leading negotiations, with Regional Director Lewis Bentzley.

Agreement on a welfare fund plan for Campbell workers was reached during the negotiations, the plan to cost the company approximately 2.5c per hour per worker. A newspaper announcement that the plan would cost one-half cent per can of soup, thus making a price rise "inevitable," was incorrect.

1st WIN IN SHELLFISH

The first union contract in the Southern seafood industry was signed by Local 309 with the Southern Shellfish Co., New Orleans, La., on March 14, setting a new pace for the industry with a 75c an hour minimum for men and 65c for women. Going rate in non-union plants is 40c an hour, according to International Organizer Albert O'Brien.

Piece work rates are three cents a pound higher than non-union rates for shrimp pickers, and over four cents a pound higher for crab picking and oyster shucking.

Another important first is paid vacations of one week for one year and two weeks for five years. Piece rate workers vacation pay is computed on total earnings and weeks worked for the year. Hourly workers to be paid at 40 hours pay.

Seniority, grievance procedure, maintenance of membership, checkoff for hourly workers, 90 days leave of absence, and an open end wage reopening clause, were other gains.

KO OVERTIME GYP IN NEW LOCAL 39 PACT

The biggest overtime pay gyp in industry—the 14 week exemption period in which seasonal industry bosses sweat the workers for long hours at straight time pay—was KO'd by Local 39 in its new contract just signed with Blue Rivers Farms, Shelbyville, Ind. What's more, it's retroactive to January 1.

Besides this, the new pact retains the union shop and checkoff and brings the workers a total of 12 cents an hour in raises.

Vacations were increased to two weeks for three years with pay based on 52 hours pay for one week vacations and 104 hours pay for two-week vacations.

Other gains included a guaranteed 48-hour week; four hours call-in pay; maternity leave for women; time and a half pay for three holidays; and company recognition of the union health and safety committee.

The 12c pay increase was distributed over a number of wage gains such as a five cent night shift bonus; three cents an hour retroactive to January 1 and two cents an hour retroactive to March 2.

Members of the negotiating committee were: Local 39 president Loren-Kuhn, W. B. Hughes, Edith Roberts, Hugh Imel and Ernest Richardson. They were assisted by Regional Director Jessica Rhine and International Organizers Emil Dean and James Barnett.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT RALLIED BY LOCAL 53

Full support to FTA Local 53's negotiations with the Stokley Foods Co. was pledged by the townspeople of Hoopeston, Ill. at a community rally at the township building.

The meeting, sponsored by a joint committee of the Farm Equipment Workers Union; Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, and FTA-CIO, was called to support FTA members locked out by the Stokley management. It was the first time in Hoopeston's history that the township building was opened for a union meeting.

Bud Conklin, local restaurant owner, appealed to the community to support the labor unions in Hoopeston, pointing out the many gains made by labor for the people.

Neal Eastman, representative of the Farm Equipment Workers Union, dealt with the history of labor's struggles for free public schools, better wages and working conditions. Eastman revealed that 500 Stokley workers were forced to live on direct relief or on unemployment insurance because of the company's attempts to bust the union. Following his speech, Eastman was invited by a minister to address a meeting he was calling at his church.

Leaflets announcing the meeting were mailed by Local 53 to the small businessmen, professionals, and other townspeople of Hoopeston. On the Saturday before the meeting, the leaflets were distributed on street corners to farmers coming into town for their week's shopping.

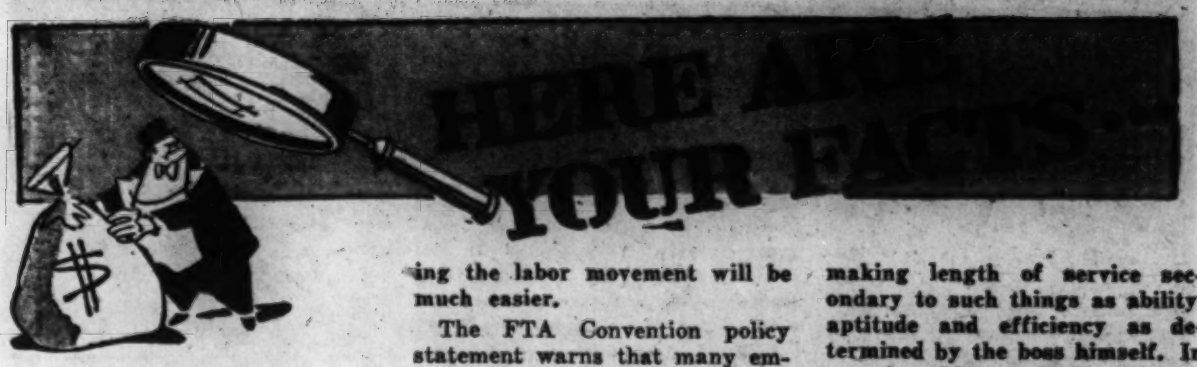
An open letter to the Stokley Co. urging them to settle with the union, re-open the plan and put the people back to work, was signed by businessmen and civic leaders.

Delta FTA School Set

Local union leaders from the Mississippi Delta Region are being chosen by their locals to attend the Mid-South FTA Leadership Training School May 11 to 24 at the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn.

How to take up grievances, organization of executive board and committee work, organizing the unorganized, and how to combat the economic and political power of the bosses, are some of the subjects which will be tackled at the school. The delegates will also get practice work in making leaflets, preparing reports, conducting meetings, etc.

It won't be all work and no play, however. FTA Education Director Connie Anderson has included plenty of recreation to round out the two-week school program.



By Joseph Califf,
Research Director

CONTRACT POLICY

The contract policy adopted at the FTA Convention in January stresses the importance of protecting and strengthening those parts of our agreements which safeguard the existence of the union and the job rights of the individual worker. This means primarily the union security, seniority, and grievance procedure clauses.

Elimination of union security and a return to the open shop is the main objective of the current labor-busting campaign of American big business, led by the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce.

Through legislation in Congress and the State legislatures, and in collective bargaining they are trying to outlaw not only the closed shop and union shop, but even maintenance of membership.

The intensity with which the bosses are pushing this campaign against the union shop is a good measure of how important it is to the workers to have it. The bosses know that without union security, their job of busting the labor movement will be much easier.

The FTA Convention policy statement warns that many employers are offering to trade off wage increases in exchange for eliminating or weakening union security. This kind of bribery must be recognized and rejected by all local unions. No wage increase would be safe for long without a strong union to protect it.

To make sure that the contract is enforced and the rights of the workers protected, the policy calls for prompt and efficient handling of grievances by shop stewards and grievance committees. All locals should insist that their contracts require the company to pay stewards and committeemen for time spent in handling grievances.

The new policy emphasizes particularly the vital importance of seniority to our members. Even the best wages and working conditions may not be worth much to a worker unless his right to hold on to his job is guaranteed by a strong seniority clause.

The seniority provisions should specify that the order in which workers will be laid off, rehired, transferred from one job to another, and promoted to better jobs will be determined solely on the basis of their length of service.

In some of our contracts, bosses have succeeded in entirely or partially nullifying seniority by making length of service secondary to such things as ability, aptitude and efficiency as determined by the boss himself. In practice this means that favoritism and discrimination rather than seniority decide who gets what job.

The policy calls for flexibility in applying the seniority clause in situations where, because of discrimination, minority groups have been denied jobs and promotions in the past. Unless they are given such special consideration, these workers would always be at the bottom of the seniority list.

Locals are warned against accepting so-called "company security" proposals. These are always schemes for hamstringing the union or wrecking it entirely.

A "must" in every contract is a strong anti-discrimination clause, prohibiting discrimination based on color, religion, national origin, sex, or political opinions.

The policy also stresses the importance of having liberal provisions for leaves of absence on union business, and a clause protecting the health and safety of the workers on the job.

Even a good contract, of course, is no guarantee that the workers will enjoy its benefits. Solid organization in the shop, full participation by the membership in the activities of the union, and aggressive enforcement through the grievance procedure, are the keys to making the company live up to its part of the agreement.

WIN STRIKE, RAISE IN QUAKER OATS PLANT

Workers at the Cedar Rapids, Ia., plant of the Quaker Oats Co. won their strike this week with a restoration of the 15 minute rest period that the company had tried to take away, plus a 12 cents an hour raise and other gains.

The rest period amounts to 15 minutes a day, and is taken during the morning. Originally the company announced that it would be dropped altogether. In offering to restore it, the company at first said that it would have to be taken over a two and a half hour period.

The workers objected to this, pointing out that it meant many of them would have to take it just before the mid-day meal and also objecting to the doubling-up of work the plan involved.

In the final settlement, the rest period was scheduled to be taken over an hour and 45 minutes, with extra workers hired to eliminate doubling-up.

Gains in the bonus system, which had previously been set at varying percentages, levelled it off for all workers at 12 percent, thus providing additional wage gains for the majority of employes.

The grievance machinery was also tightened up in the new contract, which sets three days as the limit in which beefs must be settled and provides that all grievances are to go through the shop stewards.

Other sections of the contract cut the eligibility time for paid vacations down to 30 days and cut the time in which members can withdraw from the union from 15 to seven days.

LOCALS SLAM 'LOANS' TO FASCIST COUNTRIES

The 400 million dollar Greek loan proposed by President Truman could better be spent for "more democracy in the U. S." rather than "to bolster up that bankrupt, undemocratic and corrupt military dictatorship over the Greek people," Local 22 declared in a resolution adopted on March 15.

The President, said the resolution, "made it plain that this is the first step in a world-wide campaign of American imperialism to meddle in the affairs of every nation of the world and impose the domination of American guns and money, for American big business profit, regardless of the will of the people and their democratic right to form their own government."

Local 22 members called attention to the living conditions of workers in North Carolina and the South, saying that the money should be used for more and better schools, price control, better homes, etc.

More than a score of FTA locals reacted in the same manner, sending Truman wires, letters, and resolutions.

We "oppose your plan for aid to Greece by arms and force for the purpose of interfering in the afairs of Greece," wrote Local 638. As for Turkey, they said, "she has done nothing to warrant such consideration from us."

The Northern California Cannery Council interpreted Truman's proposal as an effort to "force on the people of Greece a pro-fascist regime that is unacceptable to them."

Henry Wallace, in a radio speech the day following Truman's message to Congress, accused him of ushering in a "century of fear. Only the American people fully aroused and promptly acting can prevent disaster," he said.

Charging that Truman was undercutting the United Nations and taking over a policy which "proved to be so bankrupt that Britain can no longer maintain it," Wallace stressed that "this policy is utterly futile. No people can be bought. America cannot afford to spend billions and billions of dollars for unproductive purposes. The world is hungry and insecure, and the people of all lands demand change. American loans for military purposes won't stop them.

"President Truman cannot prevent change in the world any more than he can prevent the tide from coming in or the sun from setting. But once America stands for opposition to change we are lost. America will become the most hated nation in the world."

Reynolds Workers Set To Start Contract Talks

Paving the way for wage demands averaging 24 cents an hour, plus health and welfare and other benefits running the total up to around 30c an hour, notice of contract reopening was served by FTA Local 22 in Winston-Salem, N.C., on the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. last month.

Reynolds, its money-bags bulging with $27,973,000 net profits last year—42 percent higher than 1945—stands to rake in at least $45,000,000 extra income this year, as a result of price increases alone, even without making a single cigarette more than the 91 billion it put out in 1946.

However, all government and private experts agree in predicting a boom year for the tobacco industry, so the company's total extra take is expected to run much higher than that.

Aiming at shaking loose some of these super-profits for the benefit of workers who are burdened with one of the highest increases in the cost of living of any city in the United States, a Local 22 Contract Preparations Committee of nine members has been busy for the last three weeks readying the machinery of the union for negotiations this month. Official notice to reopen the contract, which expires May 1, was sent to Reynolds on March 22.

The wage and other contract demands of Local 22 were agreed upon after discussion at membership meetings during the week of March 24-29. They are based on proposals made by the Contract Preparations Committee and the Local Executive Board, in consultation with International Research Director Joseph W. Califf.

Members of the preparations committee are Annie Dubose, Spencer Long, Lum Bell, Etta Hobson, Lola Bates, Tom Sink, Jethro Dunlap, Annie L. Thomas and Vivian Bruce. Under their direction, suggestion blanks for contract changes have been issued to the membership, and the results compiled.

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, out of 56 cities surveyed all over the United States, only Knoxville, Tenn., has had a higher increase in the cost of living. Yet Reynolds wages for production workers have been found to stand on the average 21.9 cents below the national average for the cigaret industry, as reported in government estimates.

And instead of showing consideration for the workers who made its profits possible, Reynolds last year let them suffer under these conditions, while hiking the dividends paid out to stockholders 20 percent—paying out, in fact, on each of the items of dividends and advertising, more than the total of roughly $16,000,000 it paid its workers.

Other items on which Local 22 is basing its case include the big increase in production being put out by about the same number of workers; the tremendous jump toward leadership Reynolds is taking in the industry; and the fact that workers in several local industries already have received higher minimum wages than Reynolds is paying.

On production, reliable estimates are that Reynolds workers put out 26.4 per cent more cigarettes in 1946 than the previous year, while the rest of the industry averaged only a 5.5 per cent increase. And the lid is off in 1947 at Reynolds. More and improved machinery is being installed, output of the workers is rising with it, and sales are booming so that warehouses are drained and trucks are loading direct off the production line.

The company is all set to make a total profits killing this year which will equal or exceed its record $33,700,000 in 1932, even with higher taxes and costs.

Samples of how company big shots are rolling in wealth at the expense of workers include S. Clay Williams, Chairman of the Board, who in 1945 lifted $127,298.51 in salary, bonuses and dividends out of the labor of the employes, and J. A. Gray, chairman of the Executive Committee, whose take totalled $186,098.51.

BULLETIN

As FTA News went to press, the House of Representatives in Washington passed a rider to the labor appropriation bill applying the definition of "agricultural worker" contained in the Wage Hour Act to the Natl. Labor Relations Board fund.

This, while not as serious as the Elliott rider passed by the House last year, is aimed at excluding groups of processing workers from the Wagner Act.

Write now to your two Senators, tell them: No crippling riders on appropriation bills, no discrimination against FTA workers.

PROTEST PLAN TO BAN US COMMUNIST PARTY

"Our capitalist institutions can survive only so long as political institutions survive," wired President Donald Henderson to U.S. Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach condemning his proposals to outlaw the Communist Party.

"Your proposals that employers have the right to fire communists from jobs and that the Communist Party of the United States be made illegal can only have the effect of encouraging all reaction, not only against this minority group, but against all labor.

"As the U.S. Secretary of Labor, you are the last person in the world who should become a spokesman for proposals whose consequence can only be to strengthen reaction's drive against labor.

"More fundamentally, the American people today are striving desperately to maintain political democracy along with economic capitalism. The desperate ills of our economic system cannot be resolved by resorting to political dictatorship. This is the path of Franco Spain, Mussolini Italy and Hitler Germany.

"By striking a blow at our political democracy, you are also striking a blow at our economic institutions. The American people will not long support an ailing capitalistic system when denied democratic rights to protest against its weaknesses and denied democratic means of changing them."

ASK 25c RAISE

Local 87 members are engaged in contract negotiations with the Lord Mott cannery, Baltimore, Md., for a union shop, 25c an hour increase, 80c an hour minimum, and elimination of overtime exemptions, among other demands.

Members of the negotiating committee are: Judson McDaniels, Gertrude Reddick, Allen Waller, Viola Bell, Harry Simpson and Antonio Lopez. The committee is assisted by International Organizer Bob Lee.

Leadership Training

What FTA Boards Do

By CONNIE ANDERSON, Educational Director

How does the Executive Board of an FTA local work?

It meets regularly, usually twice a month, in the weeks between membership meetings; enforces rules of regular attendance at Executive Board meetings; hears reports from the officers and committee chairman.

It discusses the programs presented by the various officers and committees, and agrees to support recommendations to the membership, or sends the reports back to the committees for further discussion, if there is difference of opinion.

It reads communications from the National Office, with the exception of those referred to Committee Chairman and reported on by them; plans the schedule of committee and Shop Steward (or Grievance Committee) meetings; checks up on an Officer or Committee Chairman who does not report activity; plans the agenda for the next membership meeting.

The Executive Board, in short, is responsible for guaranteeing that all work of the local is being handled and that good proposals are brought to the membership. The Chief Shop Steward, or Chairman of the Grievance Committee, brings the report of grievance work. This may include proposals by the Stewards' Council for solving problems such as failure of a steward to function properly, or handling of an especially difficult grievance.

The Financial Secretary and Trustees report on financial matters to take another example. The PAC, Entertainment, Education and other chairmen bring the proposals worked out by their committees.

Correct Local Union Executive Board work is essential to the welfare of the membership, because a well-functioning Executive Board means that the leaders are concerned about the problems of the membership, and responsible for bringing to the membership meetings proposals on how to solve their problems, plans to involve the entire membership in the life of the local, and thorough reports on the work of the union officers. The membership discusses and accepts or rejects the reports and proposals of the various Executive Board members.

The Executive Board, working together as a unit, can bolster up a weak brother or sister who is not fulfilling the duties of his office—and, if worse comes to worst, recommend to the membership that he be asked to resign and someone else be elected. Also, the Board checks to see that all matters of importance are taken care of, and recommends to the membership that members of the Board who are not carrying responsibility, be assigned such responsibility.

With a well-functioning Executive Board, the membership can be sure that preparations for contract negotiations are started in time, that the local is properly represented at all labor meetings, and that in every way leadership is given to mobilize all the energies and activities of the membership to fight for their rights.

An Executive Board which works hard together in this manner is given "collective leadership" to the membership—two words which are the key to rank and file strength.

Here are questions which will cause interesting discussion in your local. Only one answer is correct in each case.

Collective leadership means:

a. The Executive Board decides everything for the membership.

b. A group of officers who consult together before they make a speech at a membership meeting.

c. A group of union leaders who discuss FTA policies and work together to carry out the program adopted by the membership.

(a. Is wrong. b. Might look right, but it isn't. c. Is correct.

The most important function of an Executive Board is:

a. To provide collective leadership for the local.

b. To make sure the Financial Secretary is keeping the books right.

c. To hear reports from all the stewards.

(a. Is correct. b. Is not the most important job of an Executive Board, although it is one of their responsibilities.)

(c. Is wrong, because it is the job of the Stewards' Council to discuss stewards' reports. The Chief Steward brings only the most important grievance problems to the Board. Only possible exception might be a very small local where this function might be assumed by the Executive Board.)

EATING CUT, CIO FINDS

Increased prices in consumer goods have already led to sharp curtailment in the purchases of industrial workers, the CIO has announced, on the basis of a nation-wide survey conducted among workers' families in basic manufacturing industries.

The survey was conducted by means of questionnaires sent to individual workers, with the assistance of the research department of CIO and affiliated unions. Tabulation of the replies indicated the following trends in consumer buying habits:

78.2% of the families are buying less milk. 88.9% are buying less butter and oleomargarine. 72.5% of the families are buying fewer eggs.

The survey also disclosed that 83.7% of the families have cut their purchases of clothing, and 59.9% of the families have been forced to dig into their savings or reduce their amount of savings in order to meet current costs of living. 71% of the families have $300 or less in savings.

The average weekly wage of the families interviewed was $44.83 which corresponds closely with the Bureau of Labor Statistics figure of $44.90 as the average weekly earnings in August of workers in manufacturing industries. Size of the families involved in the survey average 3.8 persons, compared to the 3.6 persons for all families in the nation. This indicates that the study is fairly representative of average American workers' families.

The extent of the reduced buying of specific commodities is indicated in the following figures. The survey found that the affected families are buying 4.1 less quarts of milk per week than previously. The figure ranged from 3.4 quarts to 4.6 quarts.

Butter and oleo purchases fell an average of 1.3 pounds a week. Egg purchases dropped 1.7 dozen a week on the average, with the figure ranging fror 1.4 to 1.8.

Practically all of the workers indicated a sharp curtailment of clothing purchases by their families.

The replies disclosed that the great majority of workers, over 70% have $300 or less in savings. In many instances workers have already exhausted all their savings, and have nothing left in reserve to meet the pressure of soaring living costs.

IT HELPS TO BE RICH

It always helps to be rich—especially when it comes to paying taxes.

Under our present tax laws, the worker getting $45 a week (and how many get that much?) pays more than 17 percent of his income out in taxes to Uncle Sam every year.

Mr. Rich pays 16 percent—on an income of $236,000.

These rates are under the present tax laws.

Now the Republican leaders in Congress have two tax plans: 1) a straight across the board income tax cut of 20 percent for all—$2,340 a year and $236,000 alike; 2) a cut of 30 percent for the "little fellow" and only 20 percent for Mr. Rich.

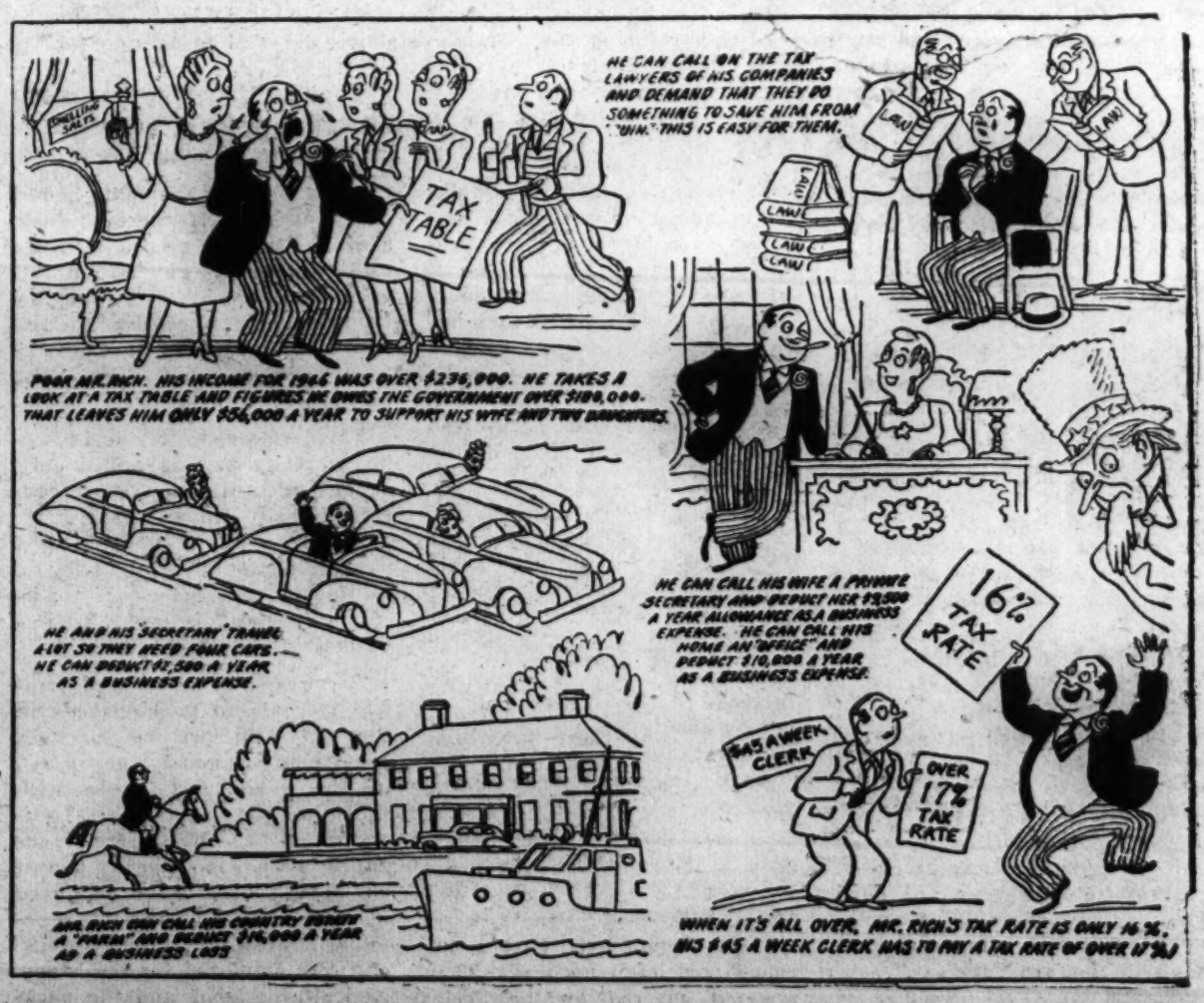
They're trying to whip Plan 2 through Congress in a hurry. Public indignation was too much for them on Plan 1.

Both plans soak the worker, give more gravy to the boss.

CIO's and FTA's tax plan is simple, fair and just. Let every family in America (man, wife, two children) have a chance to earn a tax-free income of $3,500—the minimum, authorities say, for decent, basic comfort living.

Then close the tax loopholes, raise income taxes on the wealthy, keep taxes off the poor.

Have you written your Congressman about this plan?


TAX TABLE
HE CAN CALL ON THE TAX LAWYERS OF HIS COMPANIES AND DEMAND THAT THEY DO SOMETHING TO SAVE HIM FROM "SIN." THIS IS EASY FOR THEM.
LAW
POOR MR. RICH. HIS INCOME FOR 1946 WAS OVER $236,000. HE TAKES A LOOK AT A TAX TABLE AND FIGURES HE OWES THE GOVERNMENT OVER $180,000. THAT LEAVES HIM ONLY $56,000 A YEAR TO SUPPORT HIS WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS.
HE AND HIS SECRETARY TRAVEL A LOT SO THEY NEED FOUR CARS.— HE CAN DEDUCT $2,500 A YEAR AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE.
HE CAN CALL HIS WIFE A PRIVATE SECRETARY AND DEDUCT HER $3,500 A YEAR ALLOWANCE AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE. HE CAN CALL HIS HOME AN "OFFICE" AND DEDUCT $10,000 A YEAR AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE.
16% TAX RATE
$45 A WEEK CLERK
OVER 17% TAX RATE
AND RICH CAN CALL HIS COUNTRY ESTATE A "FARM" AND DEDUCT $16,000 A YEAR AS A BUSINESS LOSS
WHEN IT'S ALL OVER, MR. RICH'S TAX RATE IS ONLY 16%. HIS $45 A WEEK CLERK HAS TO PAY A TAX RATE OF OVER 17%!

How the rich beat the tax laws is shown in this cartoon story from CIO News. Phony exemptions, fantastic expenses, huge payments to wife and family all go down as "business expenses," permitting deductions. In the end, Mr. Rich comes out with a tax rate of 16%, his $45 a week employe pays at the rate of 17%. (See story above)

DELTA, BUCKEYE MEET

Two FTA Council meetings held in Memphis in the past several weeks set the pace for FTA organization and consolidation in the South.

On February 28 the Buckeye Council, representing workers at nine FTA Buckeye cotton oil plants, met and outlined plans for negotiating a master contract next fall. Failing this, the delegates agreed they would accept no less than identical contracts, including identical wage raises and patterned on the contract negotiated in the Memphis Buckeye plants.

Reports from committees on wages and contracts, policy and enforcement, education and finance, dealt with the strengthening of the Buckeye groups in each local. They recommended membership discussions on improving the contracts, regular correspondence among the Buckeye groups, and the holding of regular group meetings of Buckeye workers in each local.

Buckeye workers have seen the strength and gains that can be won and pledged to organize every unorganized Buckeye plant into the FTA council

New officers elected by the council were: George Isabel, president; Blackman, vice-president; and George Schwam, secretary.

On March 1 and 2 the Mississippi Delta Regional Council meeting reported that since its previous meeting, elections had been won at nine plants covering some 1,000 workers. At present FTA is conducting an organizing drive among the canneries and leafhouses of eastern Tennessee involving some 6,000 workers.

The conference put forward a program for organization, year-round political action and an educational program including a school for the local leaders in May.

In his welcoming speech to the delegates, W. A. Copeland, Tennessee sub-regional director for the CIO Organizing Committee, urged them to adopt the slogan —"every CIO member an organizer."

A few of FTA Local 194's active PAC workers meet with Peter Brown, candidate for Alderman in Chicago's 2nd Ward. Left to right are Acie B. Mull, Helen Parker, Peter Brown, Elizabeth Wroton, Charles Brown and Zellner Carter. (See story, next column)

FTA Locals 29, 84 and 92 were out on the cold, rainy picketline supporting strikers at the Hotel Claypool in Indianapolis, Ind. Hotel workers struck against 35c an hour wages, rat-infested dressing rooms, and high prices they were forced to pay for meals. Service employes did well to average $65 a month, were told "no contract" by management.

FTA 194 Scores In PAC Drive

By Elizabeth Wroton

Some 35 stewards, plus a number of rank and file members of Local 194, FTA-CIO, participated in a vigorous six-weeks campaign to elect Peter B. Brown, a leader of CIO Packinghouse Workers Union, as Alderman of the 2nd Ward. This campaign, led by the CIO unions, was an outstanding example of independent political action in Chicago, aroused unprecedented enthusiasm among the campaign workers, and gave us some invaluable lessons and experiences.

Packinghouse Workers, Farm Equipment, UE, FTA, Auto Workers Local 453, and several other CIO unions selected the 2nd Ward as their concentration spot in the Chicago Aldermanic elections, held February 25. They did this when membership breakdowns showed that this ward has the largest union membership in the city.

The first half of the campaign was devoted to the fight to put our candidate on the ballot. Petitions were collected fulfilling the technical requirements, but these petitions were immediately challenged by the machine candidates.

We were successful in winning a place on the ballot only because we took our fight to the people, through picket lines, mass meetings, leaflets and a sound truck, and because we aroused them on the right of an independent, CIO member, to run.

After getting Pete Brown on the ballot, we had only about three weeks in which to do the actual precinct work. Some 274 union stewards from all unions involved served as precinct captains and precinct workers.

The main issues of of the campaign were: housing, including the fight against restrictive covenants, for more housing, for rent control, for enforcement of fire, sanitary and building codes; issues of schools, health, transportation and enforcement of the city FEPC ordinance; and the fight against injunctions and Police Captain Barnes' labor detail, currently engaged in strike breaking.

FTA stewards who did outstanding work in telling the voters what it would mean to have a fighting CIO leader in the City Council include: Charles Brown, Zellner Carter, Acie B. Mull, Lucille Burton, Allen Harris, Henry Gistover, Ernest Fox, William Roundtree, Robert Glover, Theophilus Moore, Robert Richardson, Albert Byrd, Minnie Lee Wilson, Edwin Henderson, Curtis Sayles, Gertrude Walker, Carrie Avery and a number of others.

We were up against the second strongest political machine in the city of Chicago, and succeeded in rolling up 1,658 votes for Peter Brown, plus 2,300 spoiled ballots, which the politicians conceded were in the main Pete Brown votes. We forced a runoff, to be held April 1, between the Democratic and Republican candidates and are ourselves now the balance of power in the 2nd Ward. Both machines look upon us with a very healthy respect.

As the balance of power, the precinct captains have voted to throw our strength to Harvey, the Democratic incumbent. We are doing this for two reasons. (1) Harvey agreed to incorporate about 90 percent of Pete Brown's program into his own program, together with guarantees as to carrying it out.

(2) We do not in any way wish to strengthen the reactionary Republicans, controlled by McCormick of the Chicago Tribune, in their fight to win the Mayoralty election on April 1 or the Presidential election in 1948.

PAY CUT AIM IN LABOR IMPORT

If importation of foreign farm labor is not stopped there will be a return to "Grapes of Wrath" days, FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly told members of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee this week.

Appearing in behalf of FTA and the national CIO, she charged that the real purpose of continued importation of foreign agricultural labor is "to create or intensify labor surpluses and so cut wages."

In the agricultural centers of the Southwestern States unemployment is no longer something to speculate about. It has arrived.

"In California the farm labor supply centers are filled to overflowing with workers, and observers whose memories stretch back to the 30's see a repetition of the "Grapes of Wrath" days. In the Pacific Northwest camps which would ordinarily be closed at this time of year are open because they are full of unemployed workers—a large proportion of whom are Veterans."

The FTA-CIO witness pointed out that during the war the FTA and the CIO as a whole supported importation of farm labor from foreign countries. They did this because "for us the most important consideration was producing to win the war."

Even at that time it was pointed out by the FTA-CIO that importation of foreign workers would not have been necessary "had there been an attempt rationally to distribute and use the labor available in the United States."

However, if the growers seriously wish to assure a constant and stable supply of labor, the FTA witness pointed out, there are simpler measures close at hand.

"If the big growers . . . are really desirous of of attracting labor, I should like to ask the Committee why there have been no proposals for establishing any guarantees for domestic farm labor? Our own agricultural workers are second-class citizens. They do not have the guarantees provided in the International Agreements for foreign workers.

"They do not even have a 30c guaranteed minimum-wage. They are not covered by the Social Security Act. They are not covered by Workmen's Compensation. They do not have the protection of the National Labor Relations Act. If there is such a great desire to recruit agricultural workers . . . why do not the growers and why does not the Congress offer incentives to secure labor by taking agricultural work out of this disgraceful category?"

Furthermore, while the importation program was aimed only at agricultural labor shortages, Mrs. Sasuly demonstrated from the experience of packing-shed workers in the Imperial Valley of California that American workers are being displaced by importees in industrial jobs.

"Grower-shippers placed mobile mechanized packingsheds in the fields to perform packing operations ordinarily performed in the established sheds with which we have contracts. Workers who in the past were . . . engaged in what is generally known as 'stoop' labor were employed in these sheds to pack the vegetables. Mexican National workers were employed for the 'stoop' agricultural labor and the packinghouse jobs in the established sheds were taken from our members."

LOCAL 82 TO RUN PLANT CAFETERIA

FTA members at the Pacific Grape Products cannery in Modesto, California, feel their union is perfectly capable of operating a cafeteria.

The union's contract proposals asked that the company operate the cafeteria on its premises at cost. In the past the company has let the project out to concessionaires. High prices and poor food have been the result, the workers say.

S. F. Triplett, Pacific Grape president, countered the union's proposal with a proposition that the union operate the cafeteria.

"Fine," said the FTA rank-and-file negotiating committee, headed by Chairman John Harnish, "we will."

But when the union expressed its readiness to go ahead with the project, the company asked the union to "hold off a while." Triplett said frankly that his subexecutives were opposed to the idea and doubted the union's ability to run a cafeteria.

So Local 82 called a meeting and put the proposition to the workers. Fifty-four workers signed a petition to Triplett which said, in part, "We feel that our union is fully capable of operating the cafeteria at cost. We support our union's proposal in this regard and pledge our support to a cafeteria operated by the union."

SCRATCH AN ANTI-FTA BOSS AND FIND—

Scratch an anti-labor boss and you'll often find one who doesn't mind pulling a shady deal now and then.

Like packing and shipping adulterated tomato puree.

When the workers at the Califruit Canning Company plant at Manteca, California, read recently that their bosses had pleaded guilty to five counts involving the adulteration and shipping of tomato puree they weren't surprised.

The bosses were running true to form.

The workers at Califruit have voted for FTA-CIO in two National Labor Relations Board elections. They've been certified by the NLRB as the official bargaining agent for the workers.

And still Califruit won't recognize FTA. The cannery continues its backdoor relationship with the AFL Teamsters.

So it came as no surprise when the firm, a partnership consisting of Dino A. Volandri, Alfred Volandri and Solvio Montanelli, pleaded guilty to violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act in United States District Court in Sacramento.